

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of the claims, and replaces all earlier version and listings.

1. (currently amended): An image forming system comprising:

image forming means that forms an image relating to subject data on a recording medium having an RFID tag that stores identification information specific to the recording medium;

detecting means that communicates with the RFID tag of the recording medium by a radio frequency communication and reads the identification information from the RFID tag of the recording medium;

database means that, ~~in accordance with an image forming operation for an image relating to desired subject data~~ forms a database of the subject data, wherein the database means, when an image relating to desired subject data is formed on a first recording medium in an image forming by the image forming means, stores first identification information, which is read by the detecting means from the RFID tag of [[a]] the first recording medium on which the image relating to the desired subject data is formed in the image forming operation, and the desired subject data in association with each other in the database;

retrieving means that retrieves subject data corresponding to the first identification information read by the detecting means from the RFID tag of the first recording medium on which the image relating to the desired subject data is formed, from plural subject data stored in the database means, at a timing different from the image

forming operation for the image relating to the desired subject data on the first recording medium; and

control means that controls, in accordance with a result of the retrieval by the retrieving means, the image forming means to form an image relating to the subject data corresponding to the first identification information retrieved by the retrieving means on a second recording medium already having the RFID tag different from the first recording medium.

2. (currently amended): A system according to claim 1, further comprising:

~~storing means that stores the plural subject data; and~~

selecting means that is capable of selecting the desired subject data from the plural subject data stored in the storing means.

3. (original): A system according to claim 2, wherein at least a part of the image forming means, the detecting means, the storing means, the selecting means, the database means, and the retrieving means are connected via a network.

4. (previously presented): A system according to claim 1, wherein the detecting means includes a first detection unit for reading the identification information from the RFID tag of the recording medium in accordance with the image forming operation by the image forming means and a second detection unit for

reading the identification information from the RFID tag of the recording medium at a timing different from the image forming operation by the image forming means, and

the first detection unit is provided in the vicinity of a moving path of the recording medium in the image forming operation, and the second detection unit is provided at a position where the second detection unit can read out the identification information in the case where the recording medium is brought close to the image forming means.

5. (canceled).

6. (original): A system according to claim 1, wherein the subject data includes image data.

7. (original): A system according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the image forming means, the detecting means, the database means, and the retrieving means is connected via a network.

8. (original): A system according to claim 1, wherein the database means further stores additional information, which is related to the image forming operation of the image of the subject data, in association with the subject data, and the retrieving means retrieves the subject data corresponding to the additional information in the case where information identical with the additional information is inputted at a timing independent from the image forming operation.

9. (original): A system according to claim 8, wherein the additional information includes identification information of an apparatus and application software which executed the image forming operation for the image of the subject data.

10. (currently amended): A system according to claim 1, wherein the database means further stores, in accordance with the image forming operation for the image of the retrieved subject data by the image forming means on the second recording medium, second identification information, which is read by the detecting means from the RFID tag of the second recording medium on which the image relating to the retrieved subject data is to be recorded, and the retrieved subject data in association with each other.

11. (currently amended): An image forming system comprising:
image forming means that forms an image relating to subject data on a recording medium having an RFID tag that stores identification information specific to the recording medium;

detecting means that communicates with the RFID tag of a recording medium on which an image is formed by the image forming means by a radio frequency communication and reads the identification information from the RFID tag of the recording medium on which an image is formed; and

control means that retrieves subject data corresponding to the identification information read from the RFID tag of a first recording medium on which an image corresponding to the subject data is formed by the image forming means, by the detecting means from plural subject data stored in a database that stores is formed by storing therein

the identification information read from the RFID tag of plural recording medium on which the images corresponding to the subject data is formed respectively media and the plural subject data in association with each other when the images corresponding to the subject data are formed on the plural recording mediums respectively and controls the image forming means to form an image relating to the retrieved subject data on a second recording medium having the RFID tag different from the first recording medium.

12. (original): A system according to claim 11, wherein the control means includes retrieving means that retrieves the subject data corresponding to the identification information, which is detected by the detecting means, from plural subject data stored in storing means.

13. - 18. (canceled).

19. (currently amended): An image forming method for an image forming system, comprising the steps of:

forming an image relating to subject data on a recording medium having an RFID tag that stores identification information specific to the recording medium;

communicating with the RFID tag of the recording medium by a radio frequency communication and reading the identification information from the RFID tag of the recording medium;

~~storing, in accordance with an image forming operation for an image relating to desired subject data~~ forming a database of the subject data, wherein the database

forming step, when an image relating to desired subject data is formed on a first recording medium in an image forming by the image forming means, stores includes storing first identification information, which is read in the communicating and reading step from the RFID tag of [[a]] the first recording medium on which the image relating to the desired subject data is formed in the image forming operation, and the desired subject data in association with each other in the database;

retrieving subject data corresponding to the first identification information read in the communicating and reading step from the RFID tag of the first recording medium on which the image relating to the desired subject data is formed, from plural subject data stored in the storing step, at a timing different from the image forming operation for the image relating to the desired subject data on the first recording medium; and

controlling, in accordance with a result of the retrieval of the retrieving step, the image forming step to form an image relating to the subject data corresponding to the first identification information retrieved in the retrieving step on a second recording medium already having the RFID tag different from the first recording medium.

20. (original): A method according to claim 19, further comprising the steps of:

storing the plural subject data; and

selecting the desired subject data from the plural subject data stored in the subject data storing step.

21. (original): A method according to claim 20, wherein at least one of the image forming step, the detecting step, the subject data step, the selecting step, the identification information storing step, and the retrieving step is executed via a network.

22. (original): A method according to claim 19, wherein the detecting step includes a first detection step of detecting the first identification information and a second detection step of detecting the second identification information, and

the first detection step is executed by a first detection unit provided in the vicinity of a moving path of the recording medium following the image forming operation, and the second detection step is executed by a second detection unit provided at a position where the second detection unit can read out the second identification information in the case where the recording medium is brought close to the image forming means.

23. (canceled).

24. (original): A method according to claim 19, wherein the subject data includes image data.

25. (original): A method according to claim 19, wherein at least one of the image forming step, the detecting step, the identification information storing step, and the retrieving step is executed via a network.

26. (original): A method according to claim 19, wherein the identification information storing step includes storing additional information, which is related to the image forming operation for the image of the subject data, in association with the subject data, and

the retrieving step further includes retrieving the subject data corresponding to the additional information in the case where information identical with the additional information is inputted at a timing independent from the image forming operation.

27. (original): A method according to claim 26, wherein the additional information includes identification information of an apparatus and application software which executed the image forming operation for the image of the subject data.

28. (currently amended): A method according to claim 19, wherein the identification information storing step further includes storing, in accordance with the image forming operation for the image of the retrieved subject data in the image forming step, second identification information, which is detected in the detecting step from the holding means of the second recording medium on which the image relating to the retrieved subject data is recorded, and the retrieved subject data in association with each other.

29. (currently amended): An image forming method for an image forming system, comprising the steps of:

forming an image relating to subject data on a recording medium having RFID tag that stores identification information specific to the recording medium;

communicating with the RFID tag of a recording medium on which an image is formed in the image forming step by a radio frequency communication and reading the identification information from the RFID tag of the recording medium; and

retrieving subject data corresponding to the identification information read from the RFID tag of a first recording medium on which an image corresponding to the subject data is formed in the image forming step, in the communicating and reading step from plural subject data stored in a database that ~~stores~~ is formed by storing therein the identification information read from the RFID tag of plural recording ~~medium on which the images corresponding to the subject data is formed respectively~~ media and the plural subject data in association with each other when the images corresponding to the subject data are formed on the plural recording mediums respectively and controlling the image forming step to form an image relating to the retrieved subject data on a recording medium having the RFID tag different from the first recording medium.

30. (original): A method according to claim 29, wherein the control step includes retrieving the subject data corresponding to the identification information, which is detected in the detecting means, from plural subject data stored in the storing means.

31. and 32. (canceled).

33. (new): An image forming system comprising:

an image forming unit configured to form an image relating to subject data on a recording medium having an RFID tag that stores identification information specific to the recording medium;

a detecting unit configured to communicate with the RFID tag of the recording medium by a radio frequency communication and read the identification information from the RFID tag of the recording medium;

a database unit configured to form a database of the subject data by using the identification information read from the RFID tag of the recording medium by the detecting unit, wherein the database unit, in accordance with an image forming operation for forming an image relating to desired subject data on a first recording medium being performed by the image forming unit, stores first identification information, which is read by the detecting unit from the RFID tag of the first recording medium, and the desired subject data in association with each other in the database;

a retrieving unit configured to retrieve subject data corresponding to the first identification information read by the detecting unit from the RFID tag of the first recording medium on which the image relating to the desired subject data is formed, from plural subject data stored in the database, at a timing different from the image forming operation for forming the image relating to the desired subject data on the first recording medium; and

a control unit configured to control, in accordance with a result of the retrieval by the retrieving unit, the image forming unit to form an image relating to the subject data corresponding to the first identification information retrieved by the retrieving

means on a second recording medium already having the RFID tag different from the first recording medium.

34. (new): A system according to claim 33, wherein the database unit, in accordance with an image forming operation for forming an image relating to the retrieved subject data on the second recording medium by the image forming unit, stores second identification information, which is read by the detecting unit from the RFID tag of the second recording medium, and the retrieved subject data in association with each other in the database.